

AT WORK IN EARNEST

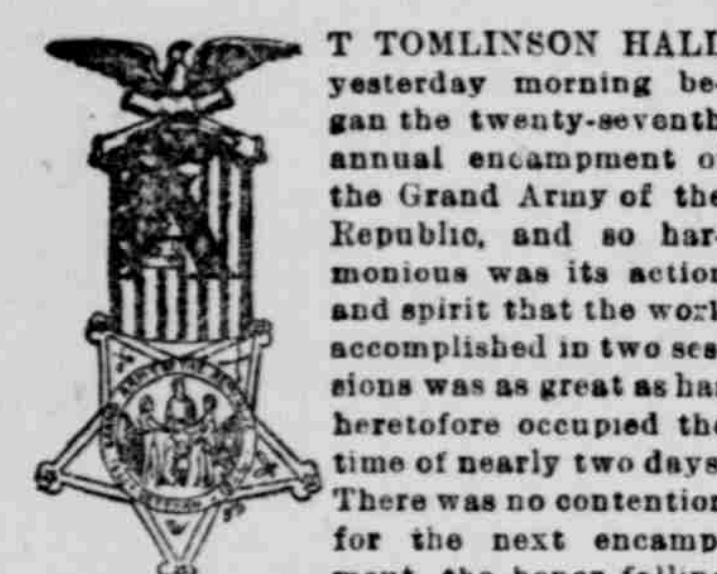
The Grand Army Delegates Get Together and Hold Two Sessions.

Absolute Harmony Prevailed, and as a Result a Great Deal of Important Business Was Transacted.

THREE NEW OFFICERS CHOSEN

J. G. B. Adams, of Massachusetts, Elected Commander-in-Chief.

Ivan N. Walker Chosen for Second Place, and J. C. Bigger for the Third—Next Meeting in Pittsburg.



to Pittsburg, Pa. Equally harmonious was the action in the election of the three leading officers, John G. B. Adams being elected commander-in-chief, Ivan N. Walker senior vice commander-in-chief, and J. C. Bigger, of Texas, junior vice commander-in-chief, by acclamation.

The welcoming exercises occupied the first half hour of the encampment. Col. I. N. Walker, of the reception committee, called the body to order and introduced Governor Matthews, who spoke as follows: "Mr. Chairman and Delegates of the G. A. R.—No prouder privilege ever fell to the lot of a Governor than this in my proud and happy privilege to welcome within our State a day representatives of the remnant of that grand, patriotic army that out of one generation ago marched out to battle for their country. We have looked for you and hoped you would come, and now that you are here by the principles and feel honored in your coming. Citizens of Indiana, with a sacred memory of the past, bid you welcome to the graves of the six thousand Indiana soldiers living here in cheering anthem to greet you, but from the graves of thousands of Indiana soldiers dead there, a blessing, a sweet and divine, chaining our memory to their deeds of valor, immeasurable sacrifices and self-inspiring devotion.

"Such an occasion as this carries us back with reverence in our hearts to the stirring times when your own countrymen, leaving the institutions of your country with an abiding faith in its future greatness, and a firm belief in the justice of its cause, were the hope and refuge of human liberty, resolved that rather than one star should disappear from its diadem you would perish in its defense. And the thousands of graves upon the battlefields of our country attest the sincerity of your resolve and proclaim that your country has its mission as well as peace, to push forward human civilization, aid in the progress and enlightenment of the world, and the thousands of copies of great and beneficent government on foundations that will last through the centuries to come. I believe that war is oftentimes a sublime necessity, and has often been the mysterious agent used by a divine Providence to accomplish and perfect great works in and for the human race. So it was in that war hallowed by the valor and the memory of your comrades; that the bonds of union in the States were so firmly cemented—the shackles were broken from the limbs of the slave, and a form of government was created to be the grandest example of free government that has existed in the history of the world, and the thousands of copies of a government whose area extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to one that now stretches out from ocean to ocean, embracing nearly every soil, climate and condition of the world, and accepted as a refuge and a home for all the oppressed and discontented, to be placed upon the broad system that can comprise all nations, all races, all creeds, all languages, all abilities and imbue them with the spirit of liberty and faith in self-government.

"It is said that a generation must pass before the true history of a great epoch can be written, but it does not, and does not, require even one generation to realize results that came through your suffering, sacrifice and devotion. It is not my purpose here to-day to follow the history of those times with which you are all familiar—not to recite your courage as you formed the heights of Lookout Mountain—faced the murderous fire at Shiloh, or how your comrades fell at Stone River—nor dwell upon their sufferings in the dreary marches through the Wilderness—the hopes and misgivings at Vicksburg, Antietam or Gettysburg—nor linger with

you as you stood at last with Grant beneath the fire at Appomattox and received the reward for all labors and sacrifices in a country saved, in a people united, and a complete Union of States. But in conclusion it is permissible to say in this year 1893, that through your valor, your sacrifice, and your patriotism it is our privilege to witness the great results in the masterpieces of man's civilization, in the great White City on the shores of Lake Michigan. The world and the new are these, introducing to us the manners and the customs of their people—exhibiting their implements of peace and war, of their manufactured goods and products of the soil; but, above and beyond all, the citizen of the United States feels a glowing pride when he draws comparison with all the world. We feel that we have much to boast of as a country and a people, and we are not upon the flag of the nation gathered there, we are impressed with the fact that the flag of our country holds more in its folds than all the others combined. We feel that the stars and stripes, saved and rebaptized by your blood, are truly emblematic of the highest civilization, grandest progress and widest enterprise. We owe you much, and whenever you meet in National Encampment there will be kindled anew the fires of patriotism in the hearts of our youth. Standing here to-day within the shadow of the grandest monument ever erected by the loyal living to the loyal dead—a monument worthy the great cause it commemorates, and worthy great State—I repeat that within the shadow of this monument, whose every stone breathes with patriotic fervor, in the name of the loyal citizens and their growing youth, I bid you warmest welcome to Indiana.

The spirited speech of Governor Matthews called forth much applause. Mayor Sullivan was next introduced to give the official welcome, which he did in his usual graceful manner. Colonel Lilly was then introduced, and was received with applause. He spoke of the work of preparation, and gave credit to Mr. Fortunate. He presented the committee in chief with a gavel made of birch wood taken from the old Statehouse. When he spoke of the delegates rose simultaneously and cheered in response. Commander-in-Chief Weissert said that he could say no more in praise of the welcome and entertainment of the Grand Army than he had. It was all that intelligence and hospitality could make it, and if the Grand Army was not here a good time it was not the fault of Indianapolis. He had early put Colonel Lilly upon his feet, and he wanted a little "get-together" in the encampment matter, and it was his good fortune to get there. This ended the welcoming exercises the Governor and others not members retiring while the encampment was in its feet.

IN FORMAL SESSION.

Report of Commander-in-Chief Weissert and Other Officers.

Commander-in-Chief Weissert then opened the encampment in due form. Captain-in-Chief Lowell making a touching prayer, to which the 700 delegates listened at "parade rest," responding at its close with a general "amen."

The call of officers showed that all were present except the surgeon-general. The commander-in-chief announced committees on the various reports of the officers, and after some informal matter a recess was taken.

It was after 3 o'clock P. M. when the sharp report of the commander-in-chief's gavel brought silence. Calling Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Warfield to the chair, the commander-in-chief read his report as follows: "Comrades and Shipmates—For the third time we assemble in the patriotic metropolis of Indiana, where, nearly a generation ago, the thousands of graves upon the battlefields of our country attest the sincerity of your resolve and proclaim that your country has its mission as well as peace, to push forward human civilization, aid in the progress and enlightenment of the world, and the thousands of copies of great and beneficent government on foundations that will last through the centuries to come. I believe that war is oftentimes a sublime necessity, and has often been the mysterious agent used by a divine Providence to accomplish and perfect great works in and for the human race. So it was in that war hallowed by the valor and the memory of your comrades; that the bonds of union in the States were so firmly cemented—the shackles were broken from the limbs of the slave, and a form of government was created to be the grandest example of free government that has existed in the history of the world, and the thousands of copies of a government whose area extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to one that now stretches out from ocean to ocean, embracing nearly every soil, climate and condition of the world, and accepted as a refuge and a home for all the oppressed and discontented, to be placed upon the broad system that can comprise all nations, all races, all creeds, all languages, all abilities and imbue them with the spirit of liberty and faith in self-government.

the rank and file of those who carried the gun and knapsack during the late war, and past chapters throughout the order have been repeatedly draped with the insignia of mourning. The loss by death in the Grand Army of the Republic during the past year is 7,002. This is in excess of any previous annual mortality returns. Add to these figures the estimated loss among veterans not members of the order, amounting by a conservative estimate to 7,500, we have a total loss by death among the Union Veterans of 14,500.

It is sad to contemplate these losses, but the ease of our membership is such as warrants the statement that from this time on we may expect the death rate to increase in a geometrical ratio. It is marvelous that it has not been greater heretofore, considering the hardships and sufferings incident to war, and the disabilities arising therefrom.

I have visited thirty-seven of the forty-five departments in the interest of the order, and have seen the death rate in the various States and Territories. Some of these were visited more than once. On account of the great distances intervening, and dates for holding the encampments being the same, it was impossible to be present at all the departmental encampments. I was enabled, however, to attend sixteen of them, and traveled over 4,000 miles. I visited all the Southern departments, excepting two, and found in every instance that the comrades there were thoroughly loyal to the order, careful to observe the rules and regulations, and manifesting an enthusiastic co-operation with the order. I am glad to say that in the departments of the South and far West large accessions to the order will undoubtedly be made.

last, many new posts. Reports from all quarters indicate that recruiting is going on throughout the order. Every department has made its return for both terms. The consolidated returns show the exact numerical strength of the order. Harmony and good feeling exist. The sentiment prevails universally that there was never a time when comrades should stand more closely together in defense of the great principles of our order than now.

There are in the Dominion of Canada four posts of this order. One at each of the following places: London, Hamilton and Montreal, all attached to the Department of New York, and East Toronto, attached to the Department of Vermont. A post is located in each of the following cities: City of Mexico, Republic of Mexico, attached to the Department of Tennessee, and Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, attached to the Department of California.

Some weeks ago I received an application for a charter for a post at the city of Lima, Republic of Peru, South America. The application was signed by twenty-four veterans of the late war, and was duly referred to the Department of California, with instructions to organize the same at once, and so soon as organized to report to this department. All these posts, with the one located at Jamaica, are in a prosperous condition, the members are devoted to the order, faithfully carry out its principles, and enthusiastically observe Memorial Day. During the year just closed there have been more calls for relief than in years past, and the same were liberally disposed of by the comrades. The official reports show that \$178,448.52 was

the G. A. R. I am informed, has also done good service in this direction. Not having received official information, I am unable to give statistics. For the good women who are doing so much I am sure our membership has only the kindest feelings, and fully appreciate the assistance rendered by all societies that aim to relieve the veteran and his needy widow and orphan. The Sons of Veterans, an organization, are flourishing, and deserve the encouragement of our order.

Heretofore it has been the practice of a few posts in the South to appeal to posts in the North for contributions for the purpose of decorating the graves of comrades who are buried in Southern cemeteries. The post first sending out its appeal invariably received a large sum of money. The others received little or nothing.

The result was that the money thus gathered went to one or two localities; the graves at those places were properly cared for, while the larger number were left unnoticed, unless attended to by individual efforts of posts near national cemeteries, and in such cases it was a larger burden than they should bear. Early during the administration, and at the first meeting of the council of administration, I presented this matter, and after a full discussion, the council in chief was instructed to take charge of the business. Orders were issued forthwith the action of the council of administration, and directing the posts to contribute funds for this purpose to send the same to the quartermaster-general. That officer was instructed to purchase flags, and on requisition daily made by posts in the vicinity of union graves, indorsed by the de-

partment commander and commander-in-chief, there were issued and forwarded to such posts the number of flags required. For this purpose many thousands of American flags were used. Every requisition was promptly filled, and so far as I have learned, all Union graves in the South were this year decorated. Some of the cemeteries have never had flags sent them, and had no exercises until this year.

By adopting this course the whole sum contributed goes into the hands of a national officer. It was properly accounted for, flags were purchased more cheaply on account of the large quantity, and the still better, as the graves were cared for instead of comparatively very few, and the surplus remains at the disposal of the order to be used solely for the purposes for which it was contributed. If there be a sufficient accumulation in this fund it will not be necessary to ask for contributions yearly.

There was no money for this purpose in the hands of the quartermaster-general until the present, and it was believed just to all, and it is keenly appreciated by those localities in the South which have heretofore been neglected. During my travels in the South I visited a number of national and other cemeteries, and conferred with many officers of the order, and am convinced by following this course we have secured, and that the rules and regulations be so amended as to prohibit any post, department or command acting for aid for this purpose except as herein indicated.

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CALENDAR OF TO-DAY'S PRINCIPAL EVENTS

WEATHER. Generally fair; south winds.

Grand Army Encampment. Morning and afternoon sessions of the national bodies continued. Business meeting and reunion of Ninth Indiana Cavalry at residence of Col. Ed. Lilly, No. 434 North Tennessee street, at 9:30 a. m. Morning, afternoon and evening reunions continued—Indiana day.

Electric displays at soldiers' monument and elsewhere.

Display of natural gas in Capitol grounds. Artificial gas illuminations.

War Pageantry Parade. Evening at 8 o'clock—Starting from the rendezvous at corner of Washington and Mississippi streets on the south side of Washington street to Noble street, countermarching on north side of Washington street to Delaware street, on Delaware street north to Market street, on Market street west to Monument Plaza, around the north side of the plaza to Market street, west on Market street to east front of the Capitol on Tennessee street, north on Tennessee street to Ohio street, west on Ohio street to Mississippi street, south on Mississippi street and disband.

Women's Organizations. Continuation of convention of national officers D. of V., Second Presbyterian Church, 8 p. m.

THE RACES. At State fair grounds, beginning at 2 p. m.

AMUSEMENTS. GRAND OPERA HOUSE—Evening at 8 o'clock; Evans & Hooey's farce-comedy organization.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE—Matinee at 2 and evening at 8; Hanlon Brothers' "Superb."

PARK THEATRE—Matinee at 2 and evening at 8; the railroad comedy, "Slide-tracked."

EMPIRE THEATRE—Matinee at 2 and evening at 8; the Marie Sanger Variety Company.

I invite your careful perusal of the report of the committee on legislation, which has labored faithfully in the interest of the order, and while not successful in accomplishing all they had hoped, they have confidence in the future.

By Section 1755, Revised Statutes of the United States, Congress has provided that any honorably discharged by reason of expiration of their term of service or the close of the war, to the benefit of a similar nature. The vote was one in which they were held in great esteem. The committee on legislation have proved their loyalty to the order, and in the line of duty, should have preference in appointments to office or employment, and in the public service if they be qualified for the place, in accordance with the spirit of the statute.

It is the purpose of the committee to secure legislation which will insure preference to veterans in appointments to office or employment, and in the public service if they be qualified for the place, in accordance with the spirit of the statute.

Pensions are paid by all civilized nations, and are the natural result of war. They are recognized in this country by enactment of law, and they are granted under law on complying with certain requirements, and when the requirements have been fulfilled, and the pension certificate issued, it was supposed, and justly believed that was final, and that the pensioner was not subject to the whims or caprice of officials. Recently, however, we find some of those who were not the friends of our country during that mighty contest from 1861 to 1865, or during the Reconstruction period, who have been granted pensions, and who are now being pensioned for services rendered in the service of their country, or other disabilities, which are covered by law, out of the pension roll without first making proper investigation.

By a very large majority the Fifty-first Congress passed what is known as the disability bill, which was supplementary to previous enactments of a similar nature. While the bill was in the service of their country, or other disabilities, which are covered by law, out of the pension roll without first making proper investigation.

Unwarranted statements are made against the pension law, and it is urged that the pension law is a burden upon the treasury, and that it is a waste of money. The pension law is a benefit to the country, and it is a waste of money to deny it to those who are entitled to it.

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WERE IN OUR BRIGADE

Soldiers That Have Been Long Separated Meet Again.

"Boys" Grown Gray Who Fought Under General Benton Gather and Renew Old Times and Acquaintances.

REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR.

Fuller's Brigade Has a Big and Enthusiastic Meeting.

Wagner's Men Also Come Together—Some Stirring Speeches Made in Recalling Old Times.

BRIGADE REUNIONS galore were held yesterday, but none were more interesting or enthusiastic than the reunion of the old brigade, composed of the Eighth and Eighteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and the First Indiana Battery, held in the Criminal Court room yesterday morning. Several hundred of the members of the brigade, together with a number from the Twenty-second Indiana were there. Col. James B. Black of this city, president. Dr. P. C. Bradford and Albert Izor, of Indianapolis, have acted, respectively, as secretary and treasurer of the association for the last year. The committee consisting of Comrades Elliott of Kokomo, William of Wabash, Charles Smith of Winchester, Van Meter of Evansville, was appointed immediately upon assembling to select a place for a reunion next year and to recommend a list of new officers. Then a committee, consisting of John S. Tillson, John Carson and Albert Izor, was chosen to make a collection for the necessary expenses of the association for the coming year.

The old brigade is very proud of its war record, its most celebrated engagement being at the battle of Cedar Creek, in the Shenandoah valley, where Francis M. Charles, the colonel of the Eighteenth Indiana, fell. His brother, John M. Charles, was at the meeting yesterday and made a short speech. Mrs. Emily Thornton Charles, "the daughter of the regiment," was also there, and she read a poem by "The Heart of Cedar Creek." The reunion of the old brigade were together all through the war, starting in Missouri under Fremont. It next saw service in the Pea Ridge campaign under Curtis, in southeastern Missouri under Davidson, and then went to the Vicksburg department. It was afterwards in Louisiana and was then transferred to the Shenandoah valley. It closed its service in Georgia.

Among the places suggested for the next reunion were Tuscarora, Pennsylvania, Peapack, New Jersey, Rising Sun and Winchester. The committee decided to hold it at Winchester. The usual date for holding the reunions has been on Oct. 19, the anniversary of the battle of Cedar Creek, but it was deemed best to hold it next year on Sept. 19, the anniversary of the battle of Opequon. The officers elected are: President, C. S. Smith, secretary, J. H. Hyatt, and treasurer, J. N. Thomas, all of Winchester.

Colonel Black introduced Rev. Abram Low, of Pennsylvania, as the first speaker. He was in the Eighteenth Indiana, and he told of the joy he felt in being able to meet the old boys again. Dr. Peter S. Blaney, of Cincinnati, was also called upon, and he told of a little incident in the Shenandoah valley, where he was taking his good wife, and he put in a few drops of a nostrum in it. He found out in a very short time the culprit. The sick man thought he was dying of rebel lam. There is Jim Peacock; everybody knows him," called out the president. And, sure enough, everybody knew Jim; for did he not pay off the boys and make up their outfit? He spoke briefly but in a good-humored manner.